REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10 and 12 without prejudice, amends claims 3, 5, 9 and 11 and adds new claims 13-16. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gruenbaum (5565641). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

One embodiment of the present invention allows an electronic musical instrument to be connected to a computer keyboard. A user can assign functions of the electronic musical instrument to the keys of the keyboard, thereby allowing ease of use. The user can also assign characters, symbols or numerical values to the keys of the keyboard. Thus, a given key can be assigned to a function as well as character, symbol or numerical value. If such a key is depressed, the embodiment determines whether the current screen view is a name entering screen view. If it is, the key entry is recognized as entry of the assigned character, symbol or numerical value. If the current screen view is not a name entering screen view, the function corresponding to the depressed key is started (see, e.g., Fig. 11 and specification at page 18, lines 9-27). Thus, the inputting of the assigned character, symbol or numerical value depends on whether a predetermined condition is satisfied, such as whether the current screen view is a name entering screen view.

In contrast, Gruenbaum does not disclose inputting an assigned character, symbol or numerical value based on whether a predetermined condition is satisfied. The Examiner has cited Col. 6, lines 43-45 as disclosing an assignment device that assigns character, symbol or numerical value. However, the citation only discloses displaying of current scale, note value, etc. and does not disclose whether such a display is based on the satisfaction of any predetermined condition. That is, Gruenbaum fails to disclose an execution device that "causes the operated key to input a character, a symbol, or a numerical value assigned to the operated key when a predetermined condition is satisfied" as recited in amended claim 3. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 and amended claims 5, 9 and 11 (which have similar recitations) are not anticipated by Gruenbaum.

The present invention allows a sequence of a plurality of operations to be assigned to one key, such that the sequence can be carried out by simply depressing a single key. This is achieved, in one embodiment, through a macro buffer (see, e.g., specification at page 19, line 8 to page 20, line 15). Gruenbaum does not disclose "a macro buffer that stores an operation sequence comprising a plurality of operations assigned to at least one of the keys of said keyboard" as recited in claim 13. New claims 14-16 have a similar recitation.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032012500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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